

Arizona Writing Standard Performance Level Descriptors Grade 6

Exceeds the Standard – Students who score in this level illustrate a superior academic performance as evidenced by achievement that is substantially beyond the goal for all students. Students who perform at this level demonstrate the ability to identify and apply good written communications by writing an exceptionally clear, focused, and lively or original piece, using precise and varied words, revealing a personal voice and communicating a strong sense of purpose, and making few errors in conventions.

Meets the Standard – Students who score in this level demonstrate a solid academic performance on subject matter as reflected by the writing standard. Students who perform at this level are able to identify elements of good communication and demonstrate consistent awareness of writing conventions. They can express a main idea with supporting details, organize with a beginning, middle, and end, sequence logically with appropriate transitions, and utilize a variety of descriptive words and sentence patterns.

Approaches the Standard – Students who score in this level show partial understanding of the knowledge and application of the skills that are fundamental for proficient work. Students who perform at this level show the ability to use some of the basic elements of written communication by demonstrating limited awareness of writing purpose, attempting to organize and sequence, using language that is appropriate though words may be imprecise, and showing a basic understanding of grammar and usage rules. Some gaps in knowledge and skills are evident and may require additional instruction and remediation in order to achieve a satisfactory level of understanding.

Falls Far Below the Standard – Students who score in this level may have significant gaps and limited knowledge and skills that are necessary to satisfactorily meet the state’s writing standard. Students will usually require a considerable amount of additional instruction and remediation in order to achieve a satisfactory level of understanding.

Students at the “Exceeds the Standard” level generally know the skills required at the “Meets” and “Approaches” levels and are able to:	Students at the “Meets the Standard” level generally know the skills required at the “Approaches” level and are able to:	Students at the “Approaches the Standard” level generally know and are able to:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Write an exceptionally clear, focused, and lively or original piece that captures the reader’s attention. • Develop main ideas with carefully selected and appropriately placed supporting details. • Create a strong, engaging beginning that builds to a satisfying resolution. • Use smooth, effective transitions throughout. • Select precise and varied words that convey meaning and evoke clear images. • Reveal a personal voice that targets the audience and communicates a strong sense of purpose. • Control the rhythm and flow of writing using varied sentence patterns. • Use natural dialogue and figurative language when appropriate. • Produce a document that requires minimal editing. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Express a main idea and provide appropriate supporting details. • Organize with a beginning, middle, and end. • Sequence logically using appropriate transitions. • Adopt a tone that is suited to audience and purpose. • Demonstrate a sense of originality and/or liveliness though lapses may occur. • Use words that are precise, descriptive, and appropriate to the type of writing. • Write using a variety of sentence patterns. • Create sentences that flow naturally. • Demonstrate consistent awareness of writing conventions. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Express a main idea with limited supporting details. • Attempt to organize and sequence. • Show a limited awareness of writing purpose. • Use language that is appropriate though words may be imprecise. • Write with some variation in sentence length. • Demonstrate a basic understanding of grammar and usage rules. • Punctuate using commas and end marks.

These descriptors do not include all the skills and knowledge as contained in the Writing Standard.